U.S.S. RUNNYMEDE

December 1995 VOL 1 NO 4

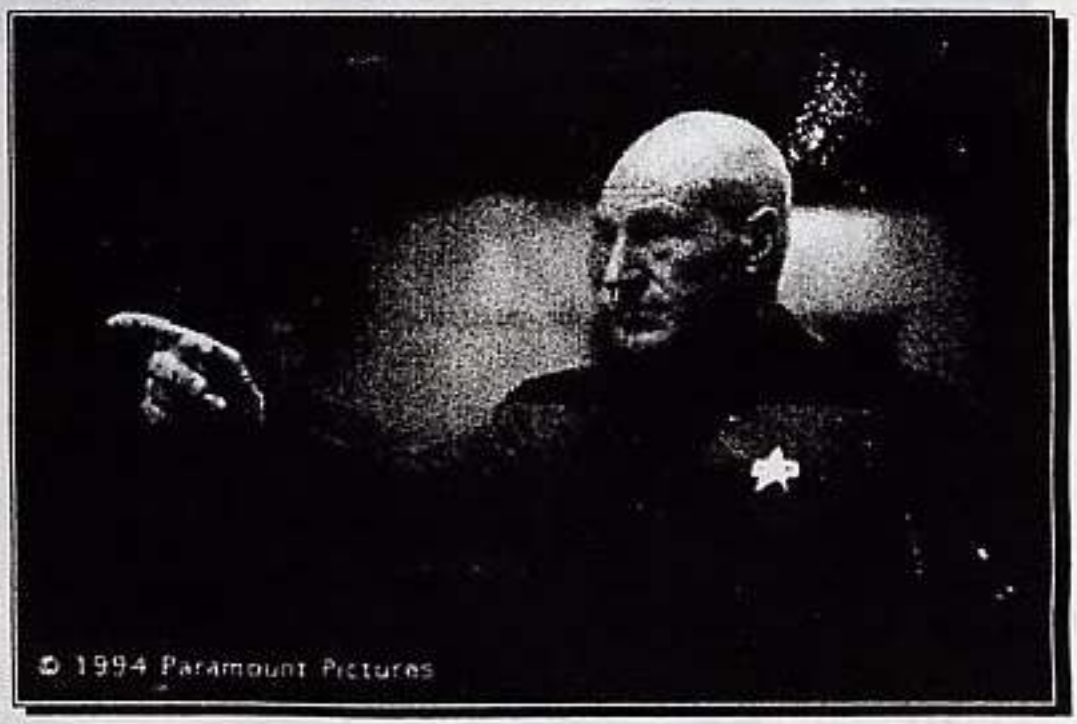
FRONTIER

HO HO HO ..... Welcome to our Xmas meeting. If everything goes to plan you should be confronted with an amazing visual and aural experience unsurpassed since ..... the last meeting!!

But enough seasonal jollities, please read this magazine from cover-to-cover as there is a lot of very important info contained within, which may be of relevance to you.

Also we have re-printed last issue's story (THE RIGHT WAY AROUND), so that it read's properly. So a big APOLOGY to Francis who made his annoyance well known to me, and it shall never happen again (My computer says so!).

Enjoy - Michael Milne (Communications)



"Xmas is here, Make It So!"

TO ALL THE CREW OF
THE U.S.S. RUNNYMEDE
THE CAPTAIN AND ALL THE COMMAND
CREW WOULD LIKE TO WISH YOU

Merry Christmas

AND A

Happy New Year

CAPTAINS LOG

NOVEMBER WAS A FANTASTIC MONTH FOR OUR CLUB IT SAW THE RE LAUNCH, WITH THE NEW PREMISES AND OUR FIRST AWAY MISSION, I HOPE THAT EVERY ONE WHO TOOK PART IN THIS TRIP WILL AGREE THAT WE HAD A GREAT TIME , AND MAY MANY MORE FOLLOW!!!

We have once again got a great dealers room with lots of goodies to purchase and with Xmas getting near I'm sure that your list is full of Trek stuff.

The convention calendar has now ended for this year - or so you thought. You can still catch one of our great screen heroes, Michael O'Hare from Babylon 5 who will be at Pages Bar on the 16th of this month. It will cost you £5.00 to get into Pages, but I know that it will be well worth it to be in the same room as Michael. If you want to go please let me know today so that I can phone Bob Benton tomorrow with the numbers. I can also let you have a little bit of gossip.

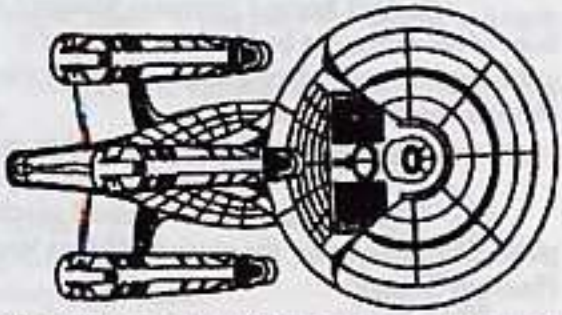
On February the 17th there will be a one day convention held at the Novotel, Hammersmith. This has been arranged by the people who brings us Wolf 359, and the guest is Ed Wasser, from Babylon 5. The price for this event will be £15.00 per head. Again let me know as soon as possible if you would like to attend.

As this is our last meeting before Christmas I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for making this club possible and to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year on behalf of all the command crew and also on behalf of myself and my family.

See you next year - if not sooner, and together we will make this the number ONE club in the country, we will of course arrange trips to the most popular conventions and also to Pages Bar if the interest is there. Remember this is your club, so the more YOU put in the more YOU get out.

May your prophets be with you.

Captain Out



Written by Sue McAuley (Starship Captain)

POSSIBILITIES

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"This court-martial, convened on stardate 48210.03, finds the accused, Ensign John Waters, not guilty of any infringement of Star Fleet Regulations, and is in no way responsible for the loss of the Constellation class cruiser, the USS Montague, on Stardate 48206.84." Admiral Budrow, commander of Starbase 29 and Chair of the court-martial, looked up from the data padd from which he was reading, and smiled warmly at the obvious relief washing over Ensign Waters.

Although Waters knew that a court-martial was standard Star Fleet policy following the loss of any starship, coming as it did after a month in the escape pods with the other 198 survivors, had been a strain. At the announcement of the judgement, it was as if a great weight had been lifted. The phantom pain of his perfectly healed ribs finally vanished. At a raised eyebrow from Admiral Budrow, Waters pulled himself back to attention.

"While for the record we wish to state that the unorthodox and highly dangerous method used to destroy the hostile Warbird is not a recommended procedure," Budrow paused as a light laugh rose from the gathered officers, "we would like to congratulate Ensign Waters on his quick thinking and bravery. We hereby award you the Medal of Honour with clusters, and promotion to the rank of full Lieutenant." Budrow smiled as applause and cheers came from the rear of the room were some of Waters' shipmates were watching. "You are hereby granted a months leave, after which you are to report for duty at the Utopia Planetia Dockyards in Sector 001. Congratulations Lieutenant Waters."

After two weeks of visiting 'the folks' John Waters was eager to get back to duty. After clearing out most of Star Fleet Command and the Academy on the poker tables he was feeling a little antsy. He was raring to go. He was also puzzled. As he was shuttled, by a cadet pilot working to get enough flight hours to earn a level 3 shuttle rating, John pondered his assignment orders.

They were signed by an Admiral Haden. Now John was in the habit of researching everything about a new assignment so as to be prepared, and the area of command under an admiral was a clue to the nature of the assignment. But when he had searched Star Fleet records for Admiral Haden all he could find was an acknowledgement of his existence. There was no record as to his current whereabouts or status. Now this wasn't that unusual. After all, the security of admirals was important, but John found it irksome.

Also, his orders simply informed him that he would be a Conn officer. They did not specify on what ship he would be serving. As he was currently traveling towards the Utopia Planetia he assumed that the ship must either be new or undergoing a major over-haul. But cross referencing Admiral Haden's name with the Yards' work orders had been fruitless.

"We're approaching the Yards, sir," the cadet announced, breaking John's reverie. He glanced at her long dark hair and decided that he found her quite alluring. But this wasn't the time. She smiled at him and he grinned back. Still, it might be worthwhile to get her name off the flight log in order to track her down later.

"Where to then?" asked John, leaning over to get a better view of Phobos, one of Mars' moons.

"I don't know, Lieutenant Waters," she answered. The rank still hung uncomfortably in front of his name, but he liked the sound of it. "I'm supposed to contact Mars NavCon for exact co-ordinates." Her slender hands danced over the communication console and accessed the Mars Navigational Control computer.

Text flared on the screen and her eyebrows shot up in surprise.

"What is it?" John inquired craning to read the screen.

"These orders," she explained puzzled. "They instruct me to place the shuttle under the control of Mars NavCon and teleport to Utopia Planetia. Weird."

"That's damn odd," John agreed. "Who issued these orders?"

"Admiral Haden," she replied.

John leaned back, confused at this development. Still, Haden was the one who had given him this assignment, so the request, no matter how bizarre, was official. He noticed the pilot was watching him expectantly. "Make it so," he said as casually as he could. But the oft heard, and never used, phrase felt clumsy on his lips, especially towards a cadet only two years his junior. He was only 23. On average, a bright and ambitous officer would be 28 or 29 by the time they got to the rank of Lieutenant.

The cadet had finished with the control console and stood, moving to the rear of the shuttle pod, where the transporter was. Tapping her silver com badge she said, "One to beam over," and waved to Waters as she dissolved into the matter stream.

Once transport was complete all the controls in the shuttle went blank. Startled, thinking that some form of system failure had occured, John was surprised when the computer spoke in it's calm, measured and feminine voice. "Please enter security clearence code for identification."

Perplexed, John rested a hand on a panel and said "Waters, Ens... Lieutenant John, security clearence level 1, authorisation, dead man's hand." There was a pause as the computer checked his password against it's memory, analysed his voice pattern and scanned his palm print.

"Identity confirmed. Ship's autopilot activated." The shuttle pod accelerated and entered a high altitude orbit. "Lietenant Waters, new security clearence rating is level 5. Do you wish to change your password?"

Level 5! John glanced up in the manner many people did when addressing the computer. "Computer, did you say level 5!." Level 5 was the same as the Captain of a major Star Fleet vessel, such as the Hood or the Enterprise.

"Comfirm level 5 security access granted. Do you wish to change your password?"

"No," snapped John, flabberghasted by this development. Level 5!

Around the horizon came the shape of a ship cradled in a 'drydock'. It was mostly finished, just some cosmetics on the hull, and the odd duranium panel were missing. The shuttle pod was heading straight for it. It was not unusual for the crew of a ship to oversee the final phases of contruction.

John glanced annoyed at the dead control panels. He wished he could call up a magnification to identify the ship. He had a suspicion that he wanted to comfirm. There had been a ship listed in the Utopia Planetia's catalogue, but until now he had never dared even hope.

The shuttle was approaching the ship rapidly, and they were soon swinging around it's saucer section. And there, emblazoned on the upper surface of the saucer, still being painted by work drones, were words that filled John Waters with breathless excitement. "U.S.S. Enterprise," he read, "NCC 1701-E."

He sat back heavily into his chair, and gave the air a victory uppercut. Because of this he failed to notice straight away that the shuttle hadn't slowed, and was continuining straight past the Enterprise.

"Hey!" exclaimed John, "Turn around!"

"Request denied," the computer replied calmly. "Destination is set."

John slumped dejectedly in his formfitting seat, and his former excitment slowly drained away.

Lost in his misery of dissappointment John did not notice when the shuttle slid to a halt beside another craft, this one in geo-stationary orbit above Mars. It was forty-five metres in length and had a slightly leoline look to it.

"Prepare to transport," the computer instructed. Lost in himself John automatically rose, shouldered his bag and stepped to the transport pad.

As the whine of the transporter began, John recovered and glanced hurriedly out of the front window.

As he dissolved, his jaw dropped in utter shock.

"A cargo shuttle!" and his words faded away leaving only the quiet, unoccupied shuttle pod, which began it's solitary journey back home.

CADET NAME	% RESULT	GRADE	PASSED OUT AS
Sheila MacAulay	100	1A	Lieutenant J.G. (High Honours)
Paul Stevens	100	1A	Lieutenant J.G. (High Honours)
Steven Johnson	95	1	Lieutenant J.G. (Honours)
Susan Matthews	95	1	Lieutenant J.G. (Honours)
Robert Faulkner	90	2	Ensign Grade 1
Tina Fearns	90	2	Ensign Grade 1
John Hughes	90	2	Ensign Grade 1
Jonathan Baker	85	2	Ensign Grade 1
Michael Milne	85	2	Ensign Grade 1
Paul Vought	80	2	Ensign Grade 1
Matthew Moon	75	3	Ensign Grade 2
Gareth Morley	70	3	Ensign Grade 2
Colin Puddephatt	60	4	Ensign Grade 3

A big congratulations to those listed above.

I am very impressed with the amount of people who takes the time to complete the Starfleet exams - I know how much work that you have to put into this task. You make me very proud and I know that the U.S.S. Runnymede results will be notes at Starfleet Command.

GENERATIONS II
Party Le Palais

Saturday 6th April 1996
From 8.30 till very, very, very late

On the evening of Saturday the 6th April,

Stargazer Productions International Limited,

will be hosting a stupendious party at the famous Hammersmith Le Palais nightspot. In attendance will be guests from the hit show "Star Trek" in all its forms and fancy dress code will be observed.

The evening will entail a first class presentation of music hosted by Le Palais best Disc Jokeys, fancy dress competitions, promotional give aways, and lots, lots more.

The event will be covered by media from around the world.

Tickets will be priced at £12.50 which will include a special gift pack only available at the party. Several Bars will be open along with food outlets.

Still photography is allowed but NO video or audio recording equipment is allowed.

a short history to

SCIENCE FICTION

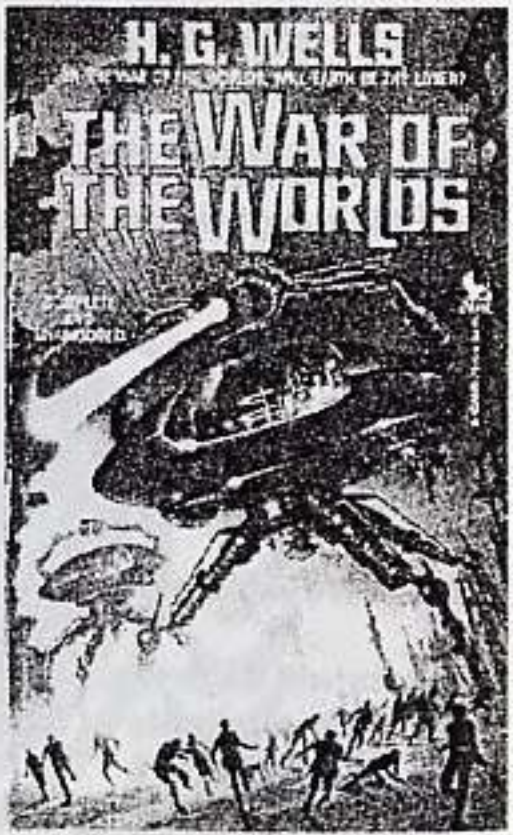
A Long Time Ago...

Man has been fascinated by the stars since the dawn of recorded time. The Chinese kept detailed records of events they witnessed in the heavens. Many thought the patterns of the stars could be interpreted, predicting the future.

The concept of leaving Earth to explore the heavens is centuries old. The German astronomer Johannes Kepler in his book "The Dream Machine", written in 1609, embarked on a fantastic voyage to Levania (Moon). He traveled in a sailing ship, making the journey in about four hours during certain rare conditions. While some aspects of the moon he described would be proved accurate, the native creatures were nothing more than part of the dream, but were probably the first 'aliens' in literature.

The real beginnings of modern science fiction came in the wake of the American Civil War. French author, Jules Verne wrote from The Earth to the Moon. This satirical look at post-war America confronted the serious problem of putting destructive weapons technology to more constructive uses. Verne envisioned the construction of a huge cannon designed to fire a projectile-like vehicle. While successfully launched, the craft did not reach the moon. It was last seen circling the moon, possibly locked in a permanent orbit. Verne's later work, Round the Moon (1869) finally ended the suspense.

The concept of the rocket ship would later be expanded upon by H G Wells - War of the Worlds (1898). It describes an alien invasion from Mars. Nothing could stop the invaders war machines. Ironically, the invaders were defeated the moment they opened the hatches of their metal vehicles, succumbing to every day germs in the atmosphere.



Early science fiction appeared primarily in 'pulp' magazines. These publications were the inspiration for budding authors. The first space adventure stories were primarily concerned with rockets, ray guns and bug-eyed monsters. In other words, they depended upon the strange allure of fantastic technologies rather than characters. Up until this point there had been no heroes like Luke Skywalker or Jean-Luc Picard and no villains other than hostile aliens. This was soon to change...

Written by Gary Palmer

USS RUNNYMEDE

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

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UCI A Universal Company

PRESENTS

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BOLDLY GOING WHERE NO ONE HAS GONE BEFORE

Doctor Who - He's Back, And Its About Time

Hello again, it's time to step slightly back from the many worlds and stories of Star Trek into the stranger world of Doctor Who. So, what has the Timelord been up to in the Six years since he left our screen?

Doctor Who: The New Adventures - Continuing The Story

Timewyrm (part 1): Genesys by John Peel.

This month I will be reviewing the First Doctor Who New Adventures novel. At the moment there are more than 50 Doctor Who books available, each priced at around £5 and available from Smiths, Blackwells, etc. The best place to start is at the beginning, the First Novel (by John Peel) is titled Timewyrm: Genesys (ISBN 0-426-20355-0), and is the first novel in the Timewyrm series (four books). The series is not tightly bound together, the books can be read in any order and still make sense.

The plot of the first book continues almost directly on from the events in Survival (the last televised Dr. Who episode) with Sylvester McCoys' portrayal of the Doctor, and Sophie Aldred as Ace. The characters are clearly recognizable, and John Peel gives them a new lease of life that the seventh doctor badly needed. Don't be put off by Sylvester McCoy on screen, the Doctor is both recognizable and different in the books.

The book centers around an entity called the Timewyrm (big surprise) being forced to crash-land on Earth in ancient Mesopotamia - the cradle of civilization. The Doctor warns himself of the impending doom on Earth and he returns to put things right.

The book neatly introduces many of the familiar things to Doctor Who fans. Including the fourth Doctor appearing to warn him, his regrets at the death of Katarina, Sara Kingdom, and Adric. It also gives us a whole new view of the Doctor in a way that would never have been possible on the TV screen.

This novel is a fairly big departure from the 'acceptable' face of Doctor Who we all knew and loved on TV. This is a Sci-Fi novel featuring the Doctor. It isn't simply a story based on an episode (as most of the Doctor Who books have been), it goes far beyond what even the BBC envisioned Dr. Who becoming. This is an unmissable read for everyone interested in science fiction, not just those who like the Doctor.

The Timewyrm series continues in the next novel Timewyrm: Exodus (by Terrance Dicks).

"You know, just once I'd like to meet an alien menace that wasn't immune to bullets." -

Lethbridge-Stewart, ROBOT

Written by Andy Pellew

Michael O'Hare from Babylon 5 at Pages Bar on the 16 December 1995

On the 16th December you will have the opportunity to meet Michael O'Hare, commander Sinclair from Babylon 5.

With the third season on its way this is a perfect opportunity to see one of the stars from the series without having to wait for one of the conventions.

The people who attended last months trip to the Star Trek exhibition at the Science Museum and Pages Ba,r know the athmosphere in this wonderful waterhole in the centre of Westminster, I'm sure we all met some fun people and found new friends (even if they did have a blue face).

This is the last chance to go on a Runnymede excurtion this year so go on, give yourself an early Christmas present and sign up for this one.

We will need to know today - so please see the person on the front desk to find out how many spaces are left - and see you on the 16th.

Spock and U.S.S. Runnymede in the News

Barnacle ere,

That geezer Spock, seemed to get himself in the papers and on Meridian News, by hanging about with Martin Foote and some of our other crew. Amaazin init?
(Martin's uniform isn't really homemade)

Thousands flock to chat with Star Trek legend

THOUSANDS of sci-fi fans went on a star trek to the Hexagon last week to meet Vulcan's famous citizen.

Mr Spock - alias actor Leonard Nimoy was in town to sign copys of his new autobiography - and the Trekkers were out in force.

The queue snaked out of the theatre and across Queen's Walk, with many of the more dedicated fans waiting for over four hours for the chance to exchange a few words with their hero.

Inside, Nimoy was far from the cold-blooded, emotionless alien he's become synonymous with. His easy manner when discussing Star Trek phenomenon was further proof he's much happier with his relationship with his character than when his first autobiography was published under the title "I Am Not Spock".

The signing was organised by Blackwell's, who had to hire the Hexagon because the size of crowd was too much for their bookshop to accommodate.

CHRONICLE 24-11-95

Star treks in: crowds queue for hours

A booksigning Jim, but not as we know it

Actor Leonard Nimoy prompted some very un-Spocklike hysteria when he met his Reading fans. STEVE ROTH set his phaser on stun as he boldly went through the huge crowds outside the Hexagon to find the hero of TV's most popular sci-fi series

◆ **SPOCK THE DIFFERENCE** - Leonard then and now.

OUTSIDE in the cold, Martin Foote of the USS Runnymede, Reading's Star Trek fan club, was bemoaning his fate.

Unlike the crew of the Enterprise, his homemade Star Trek suit did not have built-in heating pads.

"You have to put up with these things when you are a member of Starfleet," he said stoically.

Behind Martin thousands waited outside the Hexagon to meet their hero, Leonard Nimoy, alias the inimitable Mr Spock.

The actor, director and writer voyaged to Reading to sign copies of his new autobiography, I Am Spock.

For some, like Christine Goodings, of Cinnamon Close, Earley, it was the culmination of a life-long mission. "I am a Spock lover," she said. "I've been in love with him since I was a teenager. He is the ideal man, loyal, strong, dark and mysterious.

"I love Leonard Nimoy in a way that is purely platonic." Others adopted an air of nonchalance but were obviously looking forward to meeting a modern day icon.

Cybernetics student Dominic Archer said: "He seems a cool sort of guy."

Over in one corner of the foyer fans were admiring a mindboggling array of Spock and Star Trek souvenirs.

They could pick up life -size cardboard cut-outs of crew members and even Star Trek Toby jugs.

Starfleet badges with built-in communicator noises had been selling like hot cakes, said Tim Hopkins, manager of Blackwell's bookshop in Friar Street which organised the signing.

When Spock finally appeared not even the Klingons could have caused more of a commotion.

Tina Thompson, who had been first in the queue at 8am and waited four hours to see her idol, struggled through a throng of photographers to get her treasured signature.

She was clearly quite over come. "It was lovely, my heart was all a flutter," she said in a shaky voice.

Watching such adoration who could resist joining in?

Walking away with my signed copy of his book my eyes rested on a life-size image of Spock.

Well maybe just a badge...

Reading Evening Post
20-11-95

How to Host A Mystery

- The Next Generation Style

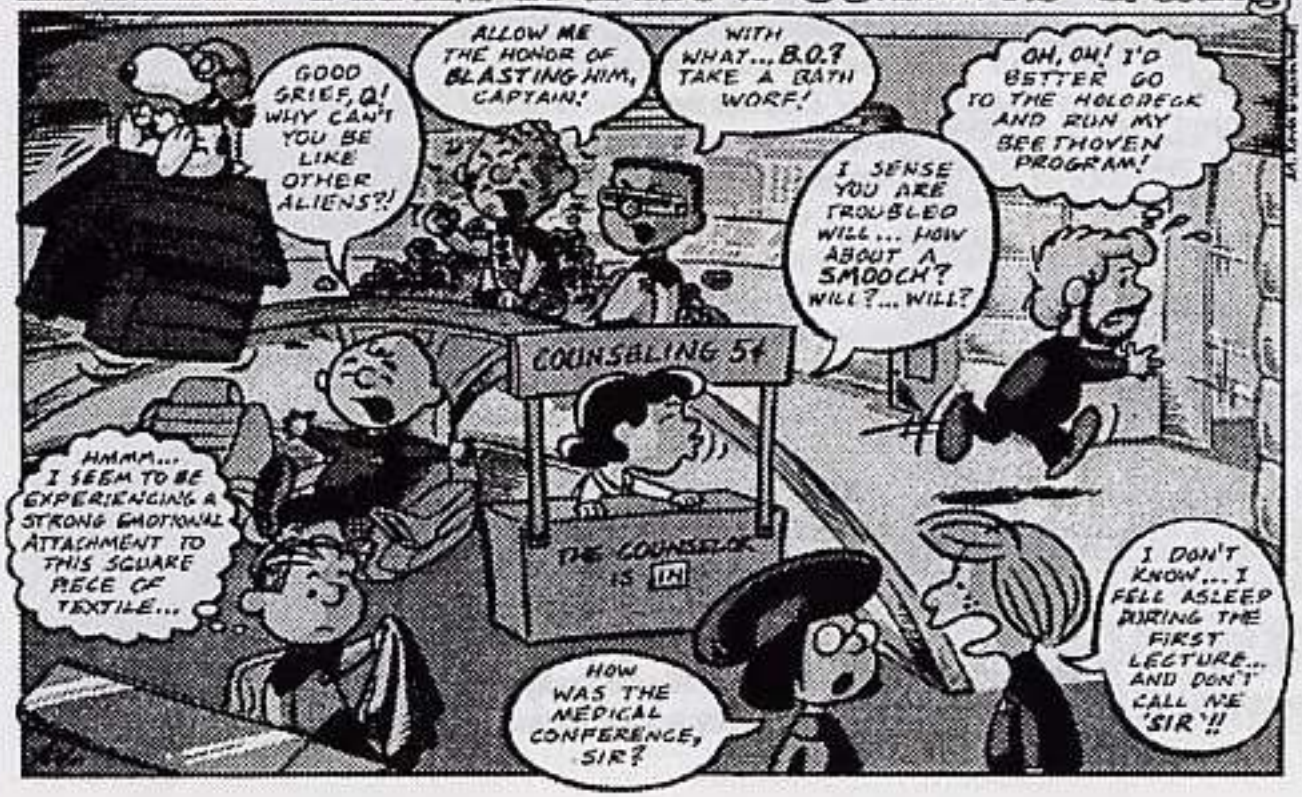
Crew member Anthony Haige is interested in knowing whether anyone would be interested in playing the Next Gen murder mystery game. Basically, each of the characters is a suspect in a mystery, with an appropriate motive and possible means. Designed to be played in four rounds with a fifth for accusations and resolution of the mystery. Solve it if you can but be warned, everything you say may be used against you.

Members likely to be offended by shady dealings, sordid affairs and deceitful conduct need not apply. Ferengi's welcome.

If interested, see Anthony or Gary will point you in the right direction.

And there's more! Anthony and our Quartermaster, Justin (the long haired lout) collect and play the Customizable Card Game. If you want to join in, pop along to the seating area (by the pinball machine) where they will definitely not be sitting playing the game -one of them is on duty!!! (the Captain)

STAR TREK: The Peanuts Gang


GOOD GRIEF, Q! WHY CAN'T YOU BE LIKE OTHER ALIENS?!
ALLOW ME THE HONOR OF BLASTING HIM, CAPTAIN!
WITH WHAT... B.O.? TAKE A BATH WORF!
OH, OH! I'D BETTER GO TO THE HOLODECK AND RUN MY BEETHOVEN PROGRAM!
I SENSE YOU ARE TROUBLED WILL... HOW ABOUT A SMOOCH? WILL?... WILL?
COUNSELING 5¢
THE COUNSELOR IS IN
HMMM... I SEEM TO BE EXPERIENCING A STRONG EMOTIONAL ATTACHMENT TO THIS SQUARE PIECE OF TEXTILE...
HOW WAS THE MEDICAL CONFERENCE, SIR?
I DON'T KNOW... I FELL ASLEEP DURING THE FIRST LECTURE... AND DON'T CALL ME 'SIR'!!

Doctor Who facts * Doctor Who facts

1. The BBC originally wiped over 200 episodes of Doctor Who, although only 146 episodes were completely wiped and unavailable in any format. Originally the BBC had no obligation in its charter to found an Archive for its own material (although, there is now!).
2. Including all the adventures, both complete and incomplete, there were just over 700 episodes of Dr. Who made. At the rate of one per week it would take just over 13.5 years to view them all.
3. The longest serving Doctor was Tom Baker who made 178 episodes, the shortest was Colin Baker who made only 31. Sylvester McCoy made 42, Peter Davison 71, Patrick Troughton 119, Jon Pertwee 128, William Hartnell 134.
4. The Missing 1986 season of Doctor Who (Colin Bakers era) which was never made has been made into three novels; The Ultimate Evil, Mission to Magnus, and the Nightmare Fair.

News * News * News * News

Doctor Who New/Missing Adventures Release Schedule : -

November 16th: NA- The Also People by Ben Aaronovitch
MA- The Empire of Glass by Andy Lane (First Doctor, Steven and Vicki)

December 7th: NA- Shakedown by Terrance Dicks (also available on video)
MA- Lords of the Storm by David McIntree (Second Doctor, Victoria and Sarah)

January 15th: NA- Just War by Lance Parkin
MA- Downtime by Marc Platt (Second Doctor, Brigadier, Victoria and Sarah)

Doctor Who Video Releases :-

Out Now - Downtime (Single Video, £11.99)

This independent production continues on from the missing Dr. Who stories the Abominable Snowmen and the Web of Fear (Patrick Troughtons' era). It reunites Brigadier Lethbridge-Stewart with Victoria Waterfield, Sarah Jane Smith, and Professor Edward Travers, as they once again attempt to foil the plants of the Great Intelligence and its Yeti minions.

With the original actors reprising their roles this story builds on its two classic predecessors. This is easily one of the best independent productions to date, the acting, particularly Nicholas Courtneys, is truly exceptional.

27th December - Dr. Who: The Monster of Peladon (Double Video, £16.99)

Returning to Peladon after 15 years the Doctor finds Queen Thalira, daughter of the late King Peladon, on the throne and Aggedor out, whilst foiling an invasion from Galaxy 5 at the same time.

Starring Jon Pertwee as the Doctor, and Elisabeth Sladen as Sarah Jane Smith this story first aired on the 23rd March 1974.

Finally this month I'm interested in what you want from this section. What would you like to have information on? So you want more news? Reviews? Previews? Background reports? Perhaps you would like a story (but only if you're sitting comfortably)? Please let me know, I'll be around at the next meeting or you could write to me, care of Sue, at the club address.

Written by Andy Pellew

OUT OF THIS WORLD

USS RUNNYMEDE

INTERESTED IN STAR TREK, BABYLON 5, X FILES OR ANY OTHER SCI-FI. THEN COME TO THE NEXT MEETING OF THE

U.S.S. RUNNYMEDE

Doors open 12.30pm. start 1.30pm. finnish around 6 pm.
The next two meetings will be held on

Sat. Jan 6th & Sat. Feb 3rd 1995

at the

PHOENIX PLAZA

PHOENIX PLAZA

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We also organise many activities such as monthly meetings. special discounts. trips. conventions. bowling. discussion groups. laser quest. paint ball. special showings at U.C.I. Cinemas. meeting celebrities. book signing. autograph signing and much much more from our members suggestions & ideas.

Entrance inc. free mag – £1.75 members – £2.50 non members
Why not come along and enjoy yourself at one of the above meetings. or for more details send an s.s.a.e. to...

S McAuley. 15 Wickham Road. Lower Earley. Reading. Berkshire. RG6 3TE

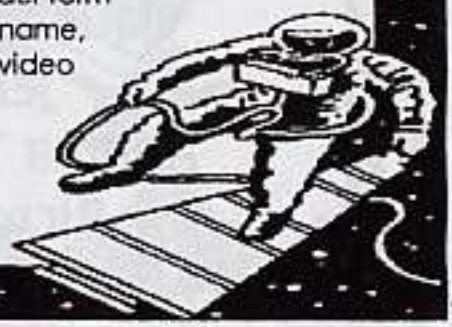
DISCOUNT VIDEOS

Do you buy the latest Trek videos when they become available?
Do you have gaps in you collection that you would like to fill?
Have you had enough of paying between £10 and £14!

Well my old shipmates, here's the opportunity to save some of your precious latinum. I am in contact with a supplier who can offer videos from the Original series, TNG, DS9 and Voyager for the would you believe it price of just £9.99!!!!!

To take advantage of this offer, please fill in the order form at the front desk or from myself, Gary, stating your name, telephone number, membership number and the video required. We do ask for a deposit of £5.

Rare and collectors editions as well as laser discs are also available.



The festive season is fast approaching, and the consumption of alcohol is part of the traditional Terran Christmas. Alcohol can be very intoxicating when consumed in quantity, the PSI 2000 virus which made water have alcoholic qualities goes to illustrate this very well (Starfleet personnel tend to act out of character).

Now that you have been warned, here is a list of the drinks that every host should have on hand to satisfy even the most discerning taste.

A&P Parisian Grand Premier	-Very alcoholic, strong enough to knock Data out.
Acclurian Fizz	-Beware, this has aphrodisiac qualities.
Aldebaran Whiskey	-It's Green, Captains & ancient engineers enjoy it.
Andorian Tea	-For those who are driving.
Finagles Folly	-A cocktail made by captains for their doctors.
Muskinseed Punch	-The classic Hahlian drink.
Prune Juice	-Served chilled, a warriors drink.
Romulan Ale	-Expensive as it doesn't replicate properly.
Saurian Brandy	-Perfect for after Christmas dinner.
Tarsec Aperitif	-Difficult to make, too hot and it evaporates.

Remember don't drink and drive or fly, get a friend to transport you.

Andy Tunley

BABCOM '96

NEWS JUST IN

If you, like me, missed **Babcom '95** here it is again **Babcom '96** on the **22-23 June 1996 at the Le Palais, Hammersmith, London.**

Guests include:

Claudia Christian - Cmdr Ivanova
Jerry Doyle - Garibaldi
Andrea Thompson - Talia Winters
Richard Biggs - Dr Franklin
Mira Furlan - Ambassador Delenn
and
Peter Jurasik - Ambassador Londo

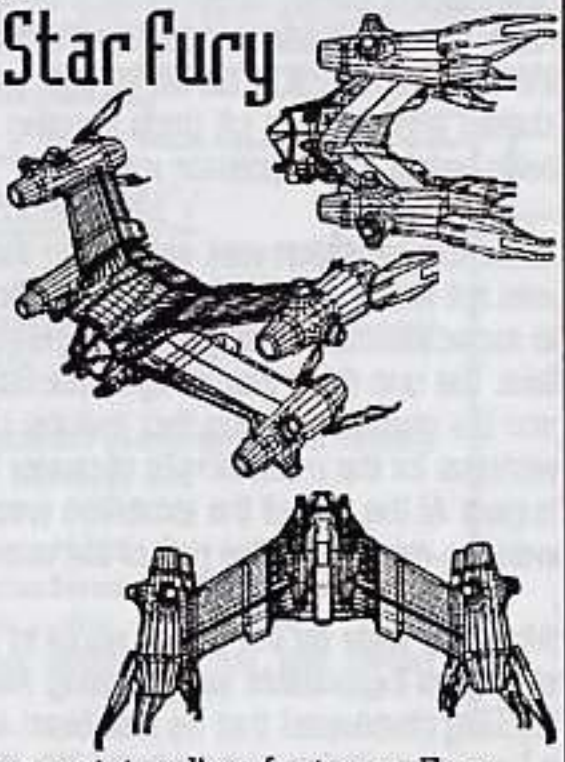
Tickets: Privileged - £30.00 per day
Standard - £22.50 per day

10% discount if you buy tickets for both days at the same price.

For further details please see Sue McAuley.

Babylon 5 Facts: Part one of two part feature

Name: Star Fury
Type: Fighter/Reconnaissance/Combat
Crew: One
User: Earth Force



Although Babylon 5 is primarily a fixture of peace it must be prepared to handle violence at many levels.

Having a high profile on the political map often makes it a target for terrorists and entire races of people who sometimes reject its decisions as mediator.

As part of Babylon 5's defence system the Star Fury Fighter is a very formidable opponent whenever the station has to defend itself.

The Star Fury was designed by Ron Thornton and Steve Bury and has many outstanding features. Four vectoring thrust nozzles/propulsion units on the tip of each wing. Thus giving the maximum maneuverability with the minimum of power, very similar to the Harrier GR7 used by the RAF. These down time to the minimum.

Part Two: Next Month.

Written by Martin Foote

Convention List

Feb

2nd-4th **Starbase '96** **Hilton National, Leeds**
Carol Looby, 152 Otley Rd, Headingly, LS16 5JX

10th-11th **Starfleet Ball** **Royal Bath Hotel, Bournemouth**
Anne Lindup, Five Elms, Holtwood,
Nr Wimborne, Dorset, BH21 7DT

AWAY MISSION: SCIENCE MUSEUM / PAGES BAR

The crowds began to gather on a rather brisk Saturday in the docking bay at Asda. As we all boarded the shuttle that would take us to London for that day the anticipation could be felt for light years around. The Captain was piped aboard and we were off. Once passing Maidenhead we engaged warp engines and arrive safely at the science museum.

The exhibition was something that we were all looking forward to, but I was left feeling a little disappointed. The exhibits just didn't quite live up to expectations, the bridge of the Enterprise in particular looked completely fake. The one thing that really struck home when viewing the props, the costumes and the models was the fact that the magic of television and movies can do wonders for the most simple of props. The heads in the DS9 section however were superb. At the end of the exhibition was the expected gift shop. This it seems was the most attractive part of the visit so far.

When we were on the coach about to leave, a horrible realisation came over us all. Ensign Expendable was missing. After investigating his disappearance, Security discovered that he had been swallowed up by a energy based lifeform of a type never before encountered. We then warped through the streets of London to Pages bar. From the moment we walked through the door we knew that this was the place to be. We all received a complimentary drink from the bar with which we toasted the memory of Ensign Expendable.

The atmosphere was brilliant. A huge range of the universes finest drinks were on offer, a few volunteers made it their mission to boldly try every one. We soon
realised why. It seems that they were fascinated with the noise that the toilet doors made. Just then, the Captain received a message that Ensign Expendable had been regurgitated by the alien and was on his way to met us. We all rejoiced. Klingons were butting heads, Terrans were singing and Trills were doing what Trills do. The fun went on and on. The video projector was showing the much loved music videos of Wesley Crusher being slapped, stabbed and being hurt generally, to enormous applause. A good time was had by all I except Wesley I.

All too soon, the shuttle arrived to take us from paradise back to Reading. We all boarded the craft and made the journey back, reflecting on all that we had seen and done that day. I think everyone will agree, it was a great day out, and that we should visit Pages bar again sometime soon.

Written by Andy Lumley

Nanotechnology

Why is it that a week after you buy the top of the range computer it's been superseded? Well there are many reasons for this, all encapsulated in one law, Moores law.

Moores law states that every 18 months computers will double in ability and the technology will halve in size.

Scientists are now predicting that within the next 25 years, we will be capable of building machines at the atomic level. Already the building blocks are in place. Enter Nanotechnology, the word Nano coming from the dwarf Greek god Nanos.

Scientists working on these new nanotechnologies are able to manipulate a single atom by using the latest in atomic microscopes (a technique discovered by mistake). When you can manipulate matter at the atomic level you can start to create nanomachines which should be able to create other nanomachines, making them self reproductive.

What other advances could Nanotechnology bring? Carbon is a very abundant element, but rearrange the atoms around and you form diamond. This would be an excellent material for making a car safety cage for example, it's light and very strong. Diamonds would then not be expensive as they could be made any size and shape the designers wanted. Imagine it, any material in any form, in any amount. The possibilities are endless.

So in the near future, as the circuits in our computers get closer to the atomic level, the closer they get to the way that living beings are made up. Perhaps these creations will actually think and act in a similar way to living beings.

Thoughts from Science Fiction Conventions

I must explain that I have never been to a "Star Trek" convention. My love of reading Science Fiction, and occasionally trying to write some, led me to Wincon in July 1994 with some wonderful writers workshops led by Colin Greenland. And there I heard that the World Science Fiction Convention for 1995 would be held in the UK, in Glasgow (the first British Worldcon Masquerades, so I finally got the chance to make some Vulcan robes and dress up. Which led me, eventually, into meeting our honoured Captain and joining the USS Runnymede.

But back to Conventions! I went to Novacon in Birmingham at the beginning of November this year, particularly because of all the wonderful writers they had as Guests of Honour; Brian Aldiss, Harry Harrison, Bob Shaw (and also Iain Banks, but I've never read any of his books, so no comment on him!). Also Stephen Baxter (author of "The Time Ships", the recent, excellent sequel to H G Wells "The Time Machine") who spoke on possible world futures over the next few hundred years.

In the hotel restaurant on Saturday night, I was asked what our convention was all about "Is it Star Trek?", I had to say no, and explained it was Science Fiction in general, naming the Guests of Honour (I don't think the man had heard of them - Star Trek's popularity reaches much wider then SF books!) The Star Trek element had consisted only of showing one video, the classic Trek episode "Spectre of a Gun". Nevertheless I had a very enjoyable time in Birmingham, with some serious scientific discussions as well as fun items - although the vegetarians were only OK if they liked pasta - fortunately I do. (If anyone is wondering, yes, I did take my robes and green make-up and ears with me, but I left them in the car all weekend as there wasn't any opportunity to wear them).

Intersection, the 53rd Worldcon in Glasgow in August, did include some Star Trek items. There was a fascinating discussion on writing for Star Trek (almost entirely concerned with writing novels rather than TV scripts) with writers Diane Duane, Peter Morwood, Jean Lorrah and Ann Crispin. And the final TNG episode "All Good Things" won the Hugo award for Best Dramatic Presentation - which it well deserved - in competition with "Star Trek Generations", "Stargate", "Interview With The Vampire" and "The Mask" which were also nominated. But sadly, the only Star Trek videos we were allowed to see at the Convention were the two brief clips shown during the Hugo award ceremony.

Never mind - we've got the USS Runnymede now, with lots of Trek to watch!

Written By Sheila (Lieutenant) MacAulay

New Years Eve
Star Trek & Sci-Fi
Fancy Dress Party
7pm To 3 am

Free Bowling

Free Snooker

Free Italian Buffet

Plus - Plus - Plus

Free Drinks All Night Long

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CAPTAIN OUT

JOIN US AGAIN

THE NEXT USS RUNNYMEDE MEETING IS ON

SATURDAY 6TH JANUARY 96

SAME TIME - SAME PLACE

PHOENIX PLAZA, WOKINGHAM

DOORS OPEN 12.30PM (STARTS 1.30PM)